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Names of Birds, &c., in four of the aboriginal languages of Western Bengal.—By V. BALL, Esq., B. A., Geological Survey of India.

Any one who has attempted to obtain vocabularies from wild or semi-savage races is aware of the great caution and care which it is necessary to practise, in order to ensure trustworthy results.

The stupidity of interpreters, and the state of nervousness into which some of the wild people work themselves when undergoing examinations in their own languages, are occasionally causes sufficient to vitiate the correctness of any vocabularies, which are not over and over again checked by enquiries from different individuals of the same race.

The most reliable vocabularies are those taken from individuals after a certain amount of intimacy has been established. But with one obliged to travel rapidly through a district, opportunities for establishing such intimacy do not often occur.

Struck with this difficulty it occurred to me that by asking names for tangible and familiar objects, such as animals and plants, about the identity of which there could be no mistake, some valuable results might be obtained. And being in the habit of making collections of plants and birds, I was enabled to carry out this idea to some extent.

The result, it must be confessed, has been somewhat disappointing as, instead of affording additional proof of the original identity of cognate races having similar languages, it shews that names for these natural objects must be in a great measure local and not of equally wide extension with the ordinary words of the languages or even the names of domesticated animals.

The cases I have chosen for illustration are two Múndá and two Oráon lists of birds, and it will be observed that in the following list, little harmony exists between either of the pairs. Where there is agreement, it is generally as often due to the fact that many of the names of birds are mere phonetic representations of their particular notes, as to any primary affinity existing between the languages.

The names, Latin and English, are as given by Dr. Jerdon in his 'Birds of India.'

Latin.	English.	MÚNDÁ.		ORÁON.	
		Ho or Larká Kol (Singhbúm).	Santál (Dáman-i-Koh).	Kol (Chutiá Nágpúr).	Malé or Rájmahál Pahária.
Tinnunculus alaudarius,	Kestrel,	Sengel súi,	Tir máti,	Júra.	Kátwi.
Spilornis cheela,	Crested Serpent Eagle,	.....	.....	Sikrá,	Básá.
Circus Swainsonii,	Pale Harrier,	.....	Társí kátá,	Chen-ko,	Kátwi.
C. æruginosus,	Marsh Harrier,	.....	.....	Dúndú.	
Milvus govinda,	Pariah Kite,	Pora quid.	.....	
Urrua Bengalensis,	} Rock horned Owl,	.....	.....
Ketupa Ceylonensis,	} } }				
Athene brama,	Spotted Owlet,	Kokor-r-r,	Kokor-r-r,	Pechá.	
Epiphaltès pennatus,	Indian Scops Owl,	Há en.			
Hirundo daurica,	Swallow,	Hápú,	Hápú,	Kápú,	Kápú.
Caprimulgus monticolus,	Night-jar,	Terang,	Tenam,	Titerang,	Kuchilo.
Merops viridis,	Indian Bee-eater,	Toiá,	Toiá,	Tá-ou.	
Coracias Indica,	Roller,				
Halcyon fuscus,	} Kingfishers,	Khí-kír,	Khí-kír,	Kil-Kilá,	Muchra kah.
Ceryle rudis,	} } }				
Alcedo Bengalensis,	Hornbill,	Deorí,	.....	Dhorsa.	
Hydrocissa coronata,	Grey Hornbill,	Má-tonge.			
Meniceros bicornis,	} Parrakeets,	Rúpe mirú,	Darha-mirú,	Koa-Súgá,	Chanden edra.
Palæornis Alexandri,	} } }	Keriar,	Doit-mirú.	Khesú-Súgá.	
P. torquatus,	} } }	Doe,	Kondi,	.....	Kodkára.
P. rosa,	} Woodpeckers,	Ghegír,	Ere,	Kát-Karwá.	
Picus Mahrattensis,	} } }	Am Ere?	.....	.....	Kútrú.
Brachypternus aurantius,	} Barbets,	Kúd,	Gútrú,	.....	Tokú.
Megalaima caniceps	} } }		Tot,	.....
Xantholæma Indica,	} } }			.....

Centropus rufipennis,	Crow-pheasant,	Sêngêl topo,	Máh kái,	Múkúl, (H)	Gándiáro.
Hierococcyx varius,	Hawk Cuckoo,	Obor,	Galoi.	Dichúá,	Kula kair.
Eudynamys orientalis,	Koel,	To-on,	.....	
Arachnethra Asiatica,	Honey-sucker,	Suê.			
Piprisoma agile,	} Flower-pecker,	Che.			
Dicaeum minimum,	} Hoopoe,	Potam-dúngi,	Kútám dáblá,	Balbúchi,	Gobar saro.
Upupa epops,	Shrike,	Chári,	Karkattá,	Pikro,	Goratengi.
Lanius melanocephalus,	King crow,	Dá chú,	Debehúe,	.....	Chepúa.
Dierurus macrocerus,	Cuckoo Shrike,	Ho êad,	Káleya,	.....	Keyá.
Gruicalus macei,	Minivet,	.....	Solai lúnde,	.....	Ghandi pújú.
Pericrocotus peregrinus,	Robin Fly-catcher,	Che,	Suê.	.....	Min káwí.
Erythrosterna pusilla,	Grey-headed Fly-catcher,	Hon,	Sásang chere,	.....
Cryptolopha cinereocapilla,	Verditer Fly-catcher,	Som dáchú.			
Eumyias melanops,	Blue Fly-catcher,	Piki.			
Myiagra azurea,	Bengal Babbler,	Geo,	Jehú,	.....	Terghi.
Malacocercus terricolor,	Bulbul.	Chepúr,	Tetoro,	Pikro,	Chitáro.
Pycnonotus pygæus,	Green Bulbul.	Som Dá chú,	Baramasia,	Títérang,	Che pedrú.
Phyllornis Jerdoni,	Golden Oriole,	Bacho,	Pio,	Balká,	Biji Kokoro.
Oriolus melanocephalus,	Magpie-robin,	.....	Hatiúre,	.....	Dhayalo.
Copsychus saularis,	Wagtail,	Chanda,	Gara chanchir.		
Motacilla luzoniensis,	Wagtail,	Hátá rowé.			
M. Madraspatana,	Bush-chat,	Ráb tine,	Jejáwá.		
Pratincola Indica,	Yellow-headed wagtail,	On múná.			
Budytes cirtreola,	Redstart,	Kankal.			
Ruticilla rufiventris,	Tree Pipit,	Ambal-sérwí.			
Pipastes agilis,	Titlark,	Serwí,	Chanchír.		
Corydalla rufula,	Common Crow,	Khá,	Káwá.		
Corvus splendens,	Indian Corby,	Dúdámú.			
C. culminatus,	Myna,	Sálu.			
Arcidothères tristis,	Black-headed Myna,	Paré peow.			
Temenuchus pagodarparum,	Pied Starling,	Gongor sálu,	Chará Kismi,	.....	Saro.
Sturnopastor contra,	Rose-colored Starling,	Ghárwá,	Súyá.	
Pastor roseus,	Sparrow,	Bagárú.
Passer Indicus,				

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		Ho or Larká Kol (Singhbúm).	Santál (Dáman-i-Koh).	Kol (Chutiá Nágpur).	Malé or Rájmahál Pahária.
<i>Passer flavicollis</i> ,	Yellow-throated Sparrow,	Dáidem.	Lipi.		
<i>Pyrhulanda grisea</i> ,	Finch Lark,	Piri gondri,	Gúdrú gúm,		
<i>Ploceus baya</i> ,	Weaver-bird,	Súyám.	Hurhár,	.....	Dundro púre.
<i>Carpophaga sylvatica</i> ,	Imperial Pigeon,	.....	Pobhám,	Hurilá,	Pogháy.
<i>Crocopus chlorigaster</i> ,	Green Pigeon,	Ho-a,	Sándi-karkar potham,	Par ki,	Púre.
<i>Turtur Surattensis</i> ,	Spotted Dove,	Chendro-potham,	.....	.....	Púre.
<i>T. Cambayensis</i> ,	Little brown Dove,	.....	Parwá,	Peroá,	
<i>Columba intermedia</i> ,	Blue Rock Pigeon,	Dúdamúl,	.....	Gúndir.	
<i>Turnix Sykesii</i> ,	Quail,	Délá,	.....	Títari?	
<i>Francolinus vulgaris</i> ,	Black Partridge,	.....	.....
<i>Ortygornis Ponticerrianus</i> ,	Grey Partridge,	Chitri,	Chitre.		
<i>Pavo cristatus</i> ,	Peacock,	Mará,	Mará,	.....	Chúe.
<i>Gallus ferrugineus</i> ,	Jungle fowl,	.....	.....	Kháir,	Khair.
<i>Sarciophorus bilobus</i> ,	} Lapwing,	Teorai,	Titi téngoi,	Chúbá,	Bárlungá.
<i>Lobivanellus goensis</i> ,		Louchúra.		
<i>Ægialitis minutus</i> ,	Lesser Ringed Plover,	.....	Da batta,	.....	Ámpojú.
<i>Totanus grottis</i> ,	Greenshanks,	.....	Bhinobatta,	Hinwá.	
<i>Tringa minuta</i> ,	Little Stint,	.....	.....	Hinwá.	
<i>Gallinago scolapacinus</i> ,	Snipe,	.....	Hinoá báttá.		
<i>Actitis ochropus</i> ,	Green Sandpiper,	.....	Tarjúá,		
<i>Geronticus papillosus</i> ,	Black Ibis,	.....	Sonkál.		Karákú.
<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> ,	Shell Ibis,	.....	Jola Ko.		
<i>Butorides Javanica</i> ,	Little Green Heron,	Gendári,			
<i>Ardeola leucoptera</i> ,	Pond Heron,	Hurwa Ko,			
<i>Herodias egretoides</i> ,	Smaller Egret,	Piska Ko.			
		Púndi Ko.			

Leptoptilos argala, Branta rufina, Fuligula cristata, Chauleasmus streperus, Podiceps Philippensis, Graculus Javanicus, Plotus melanogaster, Seena aurantia, Sterna Javanica,	Adjutant, Red-crested Pochard, Golden Eye, Gadwall, Little Grebe, Little Cormorant, Snake bird, } Tern,	Gúrur, (H.) } Hedigáy, Da sím. Unúm Ko, Da sím. Gangá merú,	Gírí. Khá-ká. Dechúá.
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MISCELLANEOUS.

Felis tigris, Felis pardus, Hyæna striata, Canis rufescens, Lepus, Herpestes, Sciurus striatus, Mus,	Tiger, Leopard, Hyæna, Wild Dog, Hare, Mongoose, Squirrel, Mouse, Bat, Snake, Fish,	Kendar Kúlá, Teou Kúlá, Hebar Kúlá, Tánní. Bin guidaro. Chútú bardwi. Hákú, Kúlái, Hái,	Lákrá, Tidra. Choto. Min,	Túd Bido Kory. Jer Kos. Derko Tud. Nerá. Máhin.
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